Gap between rich and poor

†196. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the ratio of income between the topmost one per cent of highest income group and lowermost one per cent of minimum income group of the population in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that this income gap between the rich and the poor has widened in the country;

(c) if not, the details thereof; and

(d) if so, the details thereof for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Data on income distribution in the country is not collected by offical agencies. Therefore, no estimate can be made of the ratio of income between the topmost one percent of highest income group and lowermost one per cent of minimum income group of the population in the country.

(b) to (d) In view of (a) above, do not arise.

Improvement of roads in Orissa

197. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre has approved ten road improvement works under the Central Road Fund at a cost of Rs. 58.29 crores in Orissa State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the status of widening and strengthening of existing single-lane carriage way to intermediate-lane carriage way with improvement of riding quality of Sambalpur-Sonepur Road (NH-15) and the time-frame within which it would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) These sanctioned works comprise of 7 road works including a stretch from km. 23.700 to 34.200 of Sambalpur-Sonepur Road and 3 bridge works covering a length of about 146 km. to State Highways and Major District Roads in the State of Orissa.

(c) The tendering process for the sanctioned stretch of Sambalpur-Sonepur Road for widening and strengthening of existing single-lane carriage way to intermediate-lane carriage way with improvement of riding quality has started and the work is targeted for completion of 30.11.2007. It may however be mentioned that, the Sambalpur-Sonepur Road, inadvertently indicated as NH-15, is State Highway No. 15.

Widening of NHs

198. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Members of Parliament have written letters to him on 2nd September, 2004 about widening of National Highways between Sitamarhi to Muzaffarnagar, Motihari, Raxaul and other places which are still pending;

(b) if so, the reasons for not taking any action in the matter and replying to the MPs; and

(c) by when would the National Highways be repaired and made road use worthy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) Shri Raghunath Jha, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) had written a letter dated 5th September, 2004 regarding repair of National Highways between Sitamarhi to Muzaffarpur, Motihari, Raxaul and other places. No letter dated 2nd September, 2004 regarding widening of National Highways between Sitamarhi to Muzaffarpur (typed as Muzaffarnagar in the Question), Motihari to Raxaul and other places had been received from Members of Parliament.

(c) Motihari-Raxaul section of NH-28A has been entrusted to National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for its development and maintenance. NHAI has sanctioned a repair estimate amounting to Rs. 11.58 crore. Repair work is in progress. In Sitamarhi-Muzaffarpur section of NH-77,